

Appln. No. 10/747,741
Reply to Office Action of January 6, 2009
Amendment dated: July 6, 2009

REMARKS

In regard to the Examiner's double patenting rejections based on United States patent No. 7,352,401, Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer for the referenced parent issued patent. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the double patenting rejections which are based exclusively or in part on United States patent No. 7,352,401.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. sections 102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references are record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicants presently claimed invention as now specified.

Applicants note that even the Examiner has recognized that the Examiner's primary prior art reference to Gowda, US patent No. 5,898,168 fails to disclose an imaging device wherein a threshold voltage of the amplifying element is reduced in relation to the remaining transistors of a pixel. The Examiner attempts to overcome this recognized deficiency by relying upon the teachings of the Tanaka reference, United States patent No. 6,674,470 but even the Examiner notes that this reference merely describes that the threshold voltage of the amplifying transistor has a low threshold voltage.

Specifically, Applicants note that even in the same paragraph referenced by the Examiner, the Tanaka reference also indicates that it is preferable that the address transistor has a somewhat low threshold voltage because of the same reason as that for the amplifying transistor. The Tanaka reference therefore teaches to a person of ordinary

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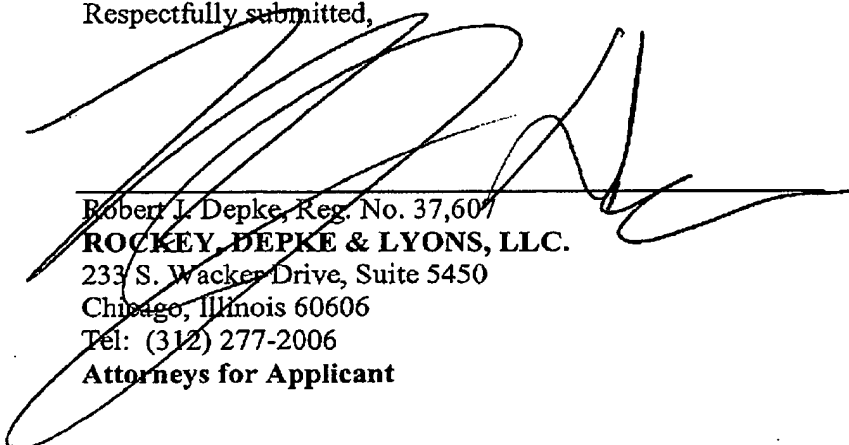
skill in the art that multiple transistors in the pixel should have a low or reduced threshold voltage. Accordingly, Applicants submit that neither Gowda nor Tanaka teach or suggest the subject matter of the presently claimed invention wherein the threshold voltage of the amplifier transistor is reduced in relation to the remaining transistors of the pixels.

Applicants respectfully also note that the alternate rejection based on the Pain reference is similarly deficient for the reasons noted in relation to the shortcomings of the rejections based upon the combination of the Gowda and Tanaka references. Applicants respectfully submit that Tanaka does not satisfy the recognized deficiencies of the Pain and Gowda references in that it does not indicate or suggest that the amplifying transistor should have a reduced threshold voltage in relation to the remaining transistors of the pixel.

Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance. In the event that it is deemed necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3891.

Respectfully submitted,

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